



Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery

reduce • reuse • recycle • respect • recover

A Garaventa Company

Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery services Brentwood-County residential recycling and yard waste every other week.

Your recycling and yard waste days are shaded in green

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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February						
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November						
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December						
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27	28	29	30	31		

Please see the back side for a list of acceptable Recycling items.

Acceptable Yard Waste Items

Brush, Flowers & Flower Cuttings, Grass, Gardens Trimmings, Hay, Houseplants, Leaves, Pruning's, Shrubbery, Straw, Tree Trimmings, Tree Twigs & Branches, Weeds, Wood Chips, and Yard Debris

Please No: Concrete, Dirt, Fruit, Hazardous Waste, Food Scraps, Large Tree Trunks, Pet Waste, Rocks, Solid Waste (Garbage), Sod, or Recyclables.

All acceptable Yard Waste must fit in the Green Yard Waste Cart with lid closed.

What is happening with Recycling?

As many of you know, there has been a major downturn in the global recycling market: we are in a recycling crisis. Many thought that this recycling crisis was temporary, but what we are now seeing is actually a fundamental change in the world of recycling. **It is now clear: recycling has changed permanently, and now we must change with it.**

To understand what we must do going forward, let's reflect on how we got here. On April 22, 1970, Earth Day was formed, and 20 million Americans took to the streets to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. In 1990, Earth Day went global mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage with a particular emphasis on *recycling*.

Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide. Government policies requiring recycling, along with a public desire to protect our environment through vigorous recycling, gave rise to global commodities markets for the items we toss into our blue recycling bins. Indeed, those global markets – dominated by China – were so vibrant they made recycling a self-funded endeavor because the value of the commodities fully covered the costs of processing the material generated by our homes and businesses. This system conditioned us all to throw as much into our blue recycling bins as possible. It was a win-win situation, so it seemed. It was too good to be true.

That all changed [last year when China decided they no longer needed our material and effectively shut their doors to](#) many items including mixed paper (paper cups, product packaging, junk mail and magazines) and most plastics. The global commodities market collapsed and with it much of the financial resources that funded our recycling system.

But despite these global forces, California still continues to mandate recycling. And here at home in the East Bay, we remain steadfast in our belief in environmental stewardship and resource conservation. It is who we are. So, we aren't ready to give up on recycling. And we don't have to. But we must renew it.

In 2020 and beyond, A **Recycling Renewal** means:

1. **Get back to basics.** In order to maximize the value of recycling, the only items that truly belong in your blue bins are bottles (glass and plastic), cans, newspaper and cardboard. That's it. Seriously.
2. **Reduce.** Do your best to consume less of materials that aren't bottles, cans, newspaper and cardboard
3. **Spread the word.** Help your friends, neighbors and colleagues get the message that we all must play our part to Renew Recycling. Have them visit www.WeCycleTogether.org to learn more.

Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery will continue to strive for excellence in the way we collect and process recycling to maximize our contribution to our local health, safety and environment.

